

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1984

THIS IS A JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS MARR LE PLO IS US PBOR
SUBJ: GOL ON JOINT DEPLOYMENT SOUTH WITH NEPALESE

REF: (A) STATE 089601, (B) JERUSALEM 1029

1. ON 7 APRIL DATT TALKED TO GENERAL KHOURY AND G-2 ABDO ABOUT
QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL. BOTH FELT SECURITY AT RAYAK WAS A
MANAGEABLE PROBLEM, BUT ABDO SAID EVEN THOUGH THE END RESULT OF
A COORDINATED UN-LAF DEPLOYMENT SOUTH WAS A GOOD IDEA, HE WAS
AGAINST USING U.S. PLANES BECAUSE IT MIGHT INCREASE ANTI-U.S.
SENTIMENT FROM THE PALESTINIANS. HE SAID THEY ALREADY FEEL THAT
THE U.S. IS PUSHING THE GOL SOUTH AGAINST THEM. KHOURY AGREED, BUT
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DIDN'T ELABORATE.

2. KHOURY DIDN'T THINK THAT THE NEPALESE ARRIVAL WOULD HAVE MUCH
EFFECT ON DEPARTURE DATE FOR THE INITIAL COMPANIES. HOWEVER
FOR THE FUTURE MOVEMENT OF LARGER FORCES, THE GENERAL HAS CERTAIN
CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE MET INITIALLY, AND IF THEY AREN'T, IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE MAIN ARMY UNITS TO GO SOUTH, EVEN

ACCOMPANIED BY THE NEPALESE. ON THE CERTAINTY OF THE LAF DEPLOYMENT, KHOURY AGAIN SAID THAT THE ARMY IS READY TO GO IF THE CONDITIONS HE POSED ARE MET. WHEN ASKED WHAT THE CONDITIONS WERE, KHOURY BEGAN BY SAYING THAT UNLESS THE INITIAL PLANS WERE CORRECT THE DEPLOYMENT WOULD FAIL; THEN HE OUTLINED THE ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS. HE WANTED THE LAF TO BE POSITIONED IN THE SAME AREAS AS THE UNIFIL FORCES; THERE WOULD BE PRIOR WITHDRAWAL OF IDF FORCES FROM THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF LAF DEPLOYMENT TO DECREASE THE CHANCES OF IDF-LAF INCIDENTS; AND A RELIABLE LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS. HE SAID THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO AND HE HAD AGREED ON THE POSITIONING WITH UNIFIL, AND THAT UNIFIL WOULD PROVIDE SOME COMMON LOGISTIC SUPPORT THROUGH THEIR SYSTEM, PART OF WHICH MAY COME FROM ISRAEL. KHOURY WAS UNCLEAR ABOUT IDF WITHDRAWAL.

3. HE IS SATISFIED THAT THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE DEPLOYMENT ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. THE INITIAL COMPANIES ARE BEING ARMED AND EQUIPPED. ONE COMPANY WAS DRAWING M-16 RIFLES FROM YARZE SUPPLIES THAT DAY. THE INITIAL DEPLOYMENT MAY ONLY BE TWO COMPANIES (ONE EAST AND ONE CENTRAL AREA) WITH A THIRD COMPANY TO FOLLOW AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

4. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH DATT ON 8 APRIL KHOURY SAID HIS INITIAL COMPANIES WERE READY TO GO TO THE SOUTH IMMEDIATELY AND HE ISSUED THE ORDER FOR THEM TO BE PUT ON 24-HOUR STANDBY WITH ALL LEAVES CANCELLED. HE CONTACTED BOUTROS TO INFORM HIM WHILE DATT PRESENT (THIS CALL SUBSEQUENT TO EARLIER CONVERSATION BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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AMB-BOUTROS) AND BOUTROS TOLD KHOURY TO STAND FAST UNTIL HE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK PRIVATELY WITH HIM.

5. I CALLED BOUTROS MORNING APRIL 8 TO ASK HIM WHETHER GOL HAD TAKEN DECISION ON ADVISABILITY RAYAK GAMBIT. INFORMED HIM OF DATT CONVERSATION WITH KHOURY AND ABDO AND OF LATTER'S RESERVATIONS. BOUTROS SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH KHOURY AND LET ME KNOW ON MONDAY.

6. HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED ABDO'S RESERVATIONS WITH MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE. WE BOTH AGREE HE HAS A POINT, BUT FEEL IT OUTWEIGHED BY PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST ARRIVAL AT RAYAK WOULD PROVIDE. WE ARE ALREADY BEING BLAMED BY PALESTINIANS FOR ARMING LEBANESE AND PUSHING FOR INSTALLATION OF UNIFIL, WHICH IS AT CROSS PURPOSES WITH PALESTINIAN DESIRE TO CONTROL SOUTH LEBANON. WHETHER WE LAND NEPALESE AT RAYAK OR BEN GURION IS NOT GOING TO MAKE ALL THAT MUCH DIFFERENCE.

7. COMMENT: IT DIFFICULT MAKE RECOMMENDATION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER UNTIL WE HEAR FROM BOUTROS. IF DECISION HAS TO BE MADE BEFORE MONDAY, IN ABSENCE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM HIM, BELIEVE WE SHOULD OPT FOR BEN GURION. THERE ARE TOO MANY QUESTIONS, PARTI-

CULARLY REGARDING READINESS OF LEBANESE, AND PROBLEMS OF LOGISTICS
AND COORDINATION WHICH WOULD BE POSED (JERUSALEM 1027) TO GO
FORWARD WITH THIS UNLESS WE HAVE CLEAR, POSITIVE SIGNAL FROM
LEBANESE THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO PUT OUT SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT
WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE TROOPS READY TO
MOVE WHEN NEPALESE ARRIVE. END COMMENT.

8. REFTTEL (B) JUST RECEIVED. PER SIILASVUO' CONCERN (PARA 2),
IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT LEBANESE ARMY COMMANDER SAYS HE IS READY
NOW TO SEND SMALL FORCE - SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THE TWO COMPANIES
SIILASVUO HOPES FOR - TO THE SOUTH NOW, WITH OR WITHOUT NEPALESE
ACCOMPANYING, BUT POLITICAL DECISION ON EVEN THIS IS STILL PENDING.
COMMENT: WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT LEBANESE ARMY WOULD HAVE
SERIOUS TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM AT PRESENT TIME IN MAKING SUCH
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A MOVE. END COMMENT.
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